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**NLRB GENERAL COUNSEL MEISBURG ANNOUNCES HIS
FIRST DECISION IN A PAPERLESS ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS CASE**

National Labor Relations Board General Counsel Ronald Meisburg today announced that he had made his first decision in an Office of Appeals case based on a paperless record through the Agency's new electronic case management system, Next Generation or "NxGen." The Office of Appeals, the Agency office in charge of reviewing cases in which a Regional Director has refused to issue complaint, began processing all of its appeals within the new system late in 2008. It closed more than 2,100 appeals during FY 2008. Currently, Regions 9 (Cincinnati, OH) and 10 (Atlanta, GA) are operating as pilot regions for NxGen. The paperless case decided by General Counsel Meisburg arose in one of these regional offices. Over the next 2 years, the NxGen system will expand agency-wide, allowing the Agency to provide more efficient service to the public.

In describing his experience with reviewing the documents on NxGen, General Counsel Meisburg stated that he viewed both the regional office and appeal case documents on-line and the system worked well. "I understand that for now there is a lot of work in the pilot regions converting the regional office investigatory file to electronic format. Over time, we will begin requiring the parties to submit case materials and memoranda in electronic format so that the conversion burden will be virtually eliminated or greatly reduced. This will save both time and money for the Agency since these files would no longer need to be mailed to headquarters offices, teleworking will not require transporting bulky files, elements of the case will be available to investigators as they complete their investigations, and Agency operations will become more transparent and accessible overall. I want to thank all of those who have been involved in the NxGen program, both in headquarters and in the field, for their tireless efforts in implementing this important piece of technology for our Agency."

NxGen has numerous built in security measures for materials placed in it and in order to further protect the materials, only certain offices of the Agency are permitted to view the electronic case file depending on what stage it is in.

The inaugural case presented to the General Counsel dealt with an appeal of the Regional Director's determination to accept a settlement agreement where one of the parties felt the settlement was inadequate. The Office of Appeals presented the case electronically and after careful review, the appeal was denied.

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